

Humans must stop killing our fragile Earth home

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Body

Earth First is not an organization; it is a movement. It has no members, no officers and no dues, just activists and supporters. All it takes to belong is a belief that the beauty and complexity of Earth have a right to exist, and that humans have already consumed and destroyed more than their fair share of the limited natural resources available on this finite planet.

We are only one of millions of life forms, yet we tyrannically exterminate species and ecosystems that took millions of years to develop. The diversity of life as we know it, including humans, cannot survive with a ravaged balance of nature.

By destroying its life support system, humanity is committing suicide. EF ers are called "radical extremists," but it is the human race that is acting insane. Dinosaurs existed for 200-million years; compared to that, the present variety of life on Earth is a newborn child. Those of us who love that child cannot bear to see it tortured to an early death by human greed and shortsightedness.

Earth First means no compromise in the defense of Mother Nature. Humans have already taken too much. Monkeys, elephants, rhinos, big cats, wolves, condors, whales and the wilderness they need to survive are 90 percent gone and disappearing fast. The Earth has a right to exist for its own sake, in its full glory, not just such meager pittance as humans choose to allow to wallow in preserves and zoos.

There is no room for compromise. We will not willingly lose one more tree or one more beach. Humans need to start giving back some of what they have taken, healing some of what they have damaged. We have a long way to go, and 10 years from now Earth First will be demanding the same thing.

We did not inherit the Earth from our parents; we are borrowing it from our children.

- Henry Lee Morgenstern, a lawyer in Key West, is a spokesman and advocate for the Earth First movement in Florida. Earth First is composed of radical environmentalists who sometimes resort to civil disobedience to achieve their goals.

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